

Forest Park 2009-2010 School Programs



Missouri Department of Conservation
Forest Park Office
5595 Grand Drive
St. Louis, MO 63112



ALL SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE OUTDOORS!



Pre-K and Kindergarten

Each program lasts 1 1/2 hours

Fabulous Frogs! *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Leap into the amazing world of frogs and toads through stories and hands on activities. From egg to tadpole to adult, students discover the fascinating life cycle of frogs and toads. Students need to wear shoes that can get muddy because we will go on a frog hunt!

Mammals for Minis *Offered September 22 - November 20, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

What's most often hairy and always has four legs? A Missouri mammal! Via craft and hands-on activities, students explore the characteristics common to all mammals as well as some of the differences. Students will be both indoors and outdoors.

Life Between Your Toes *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

There is a whole new world to explore right at your feet on the forest floor! Students dig beneath the leaf litter to discover the insects, fungi, plants and other critters that live there. Uncover the important role these critters play in keeping the forest alive and well.

Going Buggy *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Discover how an insect lives. Explore the awesome adaptations and lifestyle of an insect. Experience the world through the eyes of an insect. Students will try to catch, observe and identify insects outdoors.

NEW ! Do the Locomotion! *Offered September 22 - November 20, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Some walk, some fly, some slither, some hop. Animals move from place to place, even us! Students discover different modes of locomotion that animals use to get where they are going. Basic characteristics of each animal will be introduced.



First grade Through Third Grade

Each program lasts 1 1/2 hours



Fabulous Frogs! *SEE ABOVE DESCRIPTION*

Habitat Hike *Offered September 22 - November 20, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Discover and search for what animals and plants need to survive. We will walk through a variety of habitat types and observe resources they all provide. Students need to wear sturdy shoes.

Insect Investigations *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 29, 2010*

Explore the fascinating world of insects at your feet and all around you. Anatomy and life cycles are discussed and students go on an insect safari. Learn what makes an insect an insect and why they are so beneficial.

Terrific Trees *Offered September 22 - November 20, 2009 & April 6 - May 29, 2010*

Reduce, reuse, recycle; nobody does it better than a tree! Students discover the complete life cycle of a tree, from seed to soil. Take an up close look at the weird looking critters that help recycle the tree after it dies. Discover the important role they play and how a dead tree benefits the whole forest.

Wading into Wetlands *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

From turtles to frogs to dragonflies, there is so much to discover in a wetland! Using nets to explore the muddy bottom, students discover the diversity of life that make their homes in wetlands. Food chains and insect life cycles are discussed. Students need to wear shoes and clothes that can get muddy.

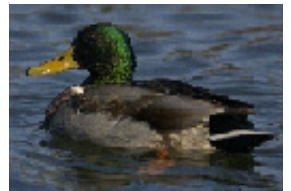
NEW ! Plants Adapt Too! *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Animals have characteristics that help them to survive and reproduce in their environment, but what about plants? Students will learn how plants cope with extreme heat or freezing temperatures. A hike will unfold many unique adaptations of the plants in the area.



Fourth Grade Through Twelfth Grade

Each session lasts 1 1/2 hours



Birds of a Feather *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Stop, look and listen for nature's feathered friends! Students learn about the characteristics of birds, special adaptations and identification techniques. Take an up-close look at native birds on a bird-watching hike. Binoculars are provided.

NEW ! Class Acts *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Vertebrates make up only 5% of the animal kingdom yet are the most well known. But how do these animals with a backbone differ from each other? Children will test their classification skills by learning characteristics of the 5 vertebrate classes. Students will also explore the area in search of vertebrate animal signs.

Incoming Invaders *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Missouri is being invaded by plants and animals that are taking over our native ecosystems. Learn how to identify some of the more common invasive species, and assess their effects on the environment. Students learn sampling techniques and visit various habitats to study their respective threats.

Underwater Discoveries *Offered September 22 - October 16, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

How healthy is the water around you? Does it look clean? What kinds of things are living there? Students put the scientific process to work to determine how abiotic factors affect the health and diversity of aquatic ecosystems. Temperature, dissolved oxygen, PH and turbidity are tested and macroinvertebrate populations sampled. Students determine how clean the water really is.

Predator vs Prey: Adaptations *Offered September 22 - November 20, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Predator-prey relationships are an important part of the food web. Students explore the differences between being the predator vs. the prey and what adaptations enable survival. Students have hands-on experiences examining skulls and other "predator/prey" activities.

We All Need to Succeed *Offered September 22 - November 20, 2009 & April 6 - May 28, 2010*

Succession is the change of one ecosystem to another over time. Students learn what the successional stages are, the reasons for the changes and how to identify the stages based on plant and animal life. Students explore two successional areas, recording plant and animal life of each area before making comparisons and inferences based on the data collected.

Seasonal Hikes for all Grades

All Hikes are 1 1/2 hours.

Call to set up a hike with the Naturalist. The topics covered will be determined by the season and weather.



Program Reservation Information

LOCATION:

The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forest Park Office is located at Forest Park inside the Dennis and Judith Jones Visitor and Education Center.

PROGRAM COST AND SIZE:

All programs are FREE! The Forest Park Office provides free environmental education and interpretive programs to organized groups of 15 or more. The program times can be adjusted to accommodate groups of 25 or more.

PROGRAM DATES AND TIMES:

- Please note date each program is offered.
- Programs are available between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday - Friday.
- Programs are presented at one of the natural ecosystems of Forest Park.
- All programs are outdoors.

RESERVATIONS:

- Call (314) 877-1309 ext. 223, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Have one or two alternate dates in mind in case your first choice is already filled.
- Requests must be made a minimum of **two weeks prior** to the date of the program.

OFFSITE: If you cannot bring your group to us, maybe a Naturalist can visit your site. Call for availability.

GRADE LEVEL EXPECTATIONS:

Our programs meet Grade Level Expectations. Please call for specific information.

